

HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT INC.

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Tug Of War In Search Of The Perfect Pull

Running Time: 26 mins.

Director: Fiona Cochrane

Description:

For thousands of years man has settled his differences, clan against clan, village against village, with a robust contest of strength known as tug of war. Today, tug of war is a sport partaken in by men, women and children informally around the world, and as an organized sport replete with national and international championships in 29 countries.

Encouraged by “Xena: Warrior Princess,” filmmaker Fiona Cochrane set out to profile a real-life women’s tug of war team whose members are looked upon as the Xenas of their suburban neighborhoods where, after a long day of raising their families and working at a variety of jobs, release their stress and build up a sweat by joining in a good old fashioned tug of war contest.

The film follows the Australian women’s tug of war team and their coach as they take on the world at the International Tug of War Championship World Games in Japan. It’s about a group of 40-something women pulling on a rough rope being screamed at by a half-blind Irish tug of war maniac. If you think professional sports coaches are tough, they have nothing on the coach of the Australian national team.

Recently the International Olympic Committee board gave formal recognition to the international federation of tug of war. The sport was previously contested at six Olympics between 1900 and 1920.

A graduate of Monash University Faculty of Medicine in Melbourne, director Fiona Cochrane is a practicing physician and a filmmaker of note. A few of her credits include the features “Holidays On The River Yarra” and “Nirvana Street Murder,” the short films “Gorilla Girls” and “The Dilemma,” and documentaries such as “Beating The Drum” and “Screamin’ Wheelies.” These films have screened widely at international film festivals and won numerous awards.

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